

O P E J C P
SEP 07 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Kazunori CHIBA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/750,914

GAU: 1765

FILED: January 5, 2004

EXAMINER:

FOR: DEVICE AND PROCESS FOR REFINING SOLID MATERIAL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with discussions on August 4, 2004 with Mr. Nicholas P. Godici, Commissioner for Patents, it is no longer required to submit copies of cited pending applications. A modification of the Rules will be published soon in the Official Gazette. Cited issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

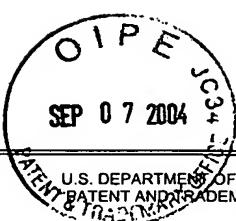
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Form PTO 1449
(Modified)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
247303US3CONTSERIAL NO.
10/750,914

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT
Kazunori CHIBA, et al.FILING DATE
January 5, 2004GROUP
1765

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,166,125	12/26/2000	N. SUGIYAMA, et al.			
	AB	6,225,382	05/01/2001	I. MATSUKURA, et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	AO					
	AP					
	AQ					
	AR					
	AS					
	AT					
	AU					
	AV					

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AW	
	AX	
	AY	
	AZ	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached
Examiner		Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.